

AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES COMMAND TECHNICAL BULLETIN

FROM: Policy & Procedures Branch

TB: PP001-06

Subject: Air Traffic Control Medical Examination: What medical standards apply to Civilian (contractors) performing air traffic control duties? Is there a requirement for an Army Air Traffic Controller Medical Examination? Is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Medical Examination or a Medical Examination rendered by a civilian flight surgeon a substitution for the Army Air Traffic Controller Medical Examination (ATCME)?

Discussion: Many Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) cannot obtain an ATCME at military medical facilities in CONUS or OCONUS. In CONUS many controllers (civilian) receive a flight physical from civilian flight surgeons recognized by the FAA, but do not have a DA Form 4186 in their air traffic controllers records. In OCONUS many different work agreement state differing medical requirements as agreed upon by their Civilian Personnel Office.

ATSCOM Comments: The following regulations were reviewed and checked with their proponents for updates or changes.

(a) Army Regulation 40-501, Paragraph 4-33. Medical standards for ATC personnel subpart: a (2); "The contract will state that DA contract ATCs will meet the same medical qualification requirements as those for DA civilians set forth in (1) above".

(b) The Aeromedical Technical Bulletin (ATB), Page 28, Revised: July 2003. The ATB serves as a guide for the conduct of the ATCME for Department of Army Civilians (DAC) and Civilian Contract ATCs. The ATB implements the occupational health standards for DAC/Civilian ATCs as outlined by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

(1) "FAA Physicals for either category of ATC are not required by DA or the FAA and will not be accepted by the United States Army Aeromedical Activity (USAAMA) as certification of medical fitness".

(2) "A DA form 4186, Medical Recommendation for Flying Duty, signed by a flight surgeon of any military service must be completed as part of the ATCME and serves as a recommendation to the local airfield commander of the individual's medical fitness for execution of ATC duties. A FAA examination or certificate for DAC or civilian ATCs will not be accepted or processed by USAAMA for this requirement. Flight surgeons will not accept an FAA physical or issue DA Form 4186 based on presentation of and FAA examination or certificated".

Directive: All Army ATS facilities must take immediate actions to implement the standards IAW AR 40-501 – Standards of Medical Fitness and US Army Aeromedical Technical Bulletins, under ATC Medical Standards (DAC and Civilian Contract, page 28).

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